

## NEW YORK HERALD.

JAMES GORDON SEYMOUR,  
PROPRIETOR AND EDITOR.

OFFICE N. W. CORNER OF NASSAU AND FULTON STS.

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VOLUME XX. No. 260.  
AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

BROADWAY THEATRE, Broadway—HICKS—WANDER  
ING MINSTRELS.

WILSON GARDEN, Broadway—MISS PRINCE—DAUGHTERS  
OF THE REGENCY.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery—WHEATON—BATES BOY.

SHIRTON'S THEATRE, Chambers St.—STILL WATER RICE  
DISH—WANDERER MINSTRELS.

SWALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway—GAME OF LOVE—  
STARRING THEATRE.

WILSON GARDEN, Broadway—LA LIGNE  
DROITS—ANGLO.

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of New York, to ascertain the cause of enforcing quarantine on vessels from Baltimore, there being no sickness at the present time in that city.

The sales of cotton yesterday were confined to about 500 bales, and the market closed steady, without change in prices. Dealers were inclined to await the receipt of later news, due by the Baltic. Flour declined 12½c per bushel, all round. Wheat was in good demand and quite firm, with sales at full prices. Corn was also firm, with a fair amount of sales. Pork was inactive, while prices were unchanged. Sugars languid, with light sales at previous prices. Coffee was sold in small lots at about previous rates. There was a slight reaction in freights to Liverpool and London, especially as far as breadstuffs were concerned, while they closed at firmer rates for Havre.

## Our Sea Coast Defences—The Art of Fortification.

The bombardment and reported destruction of the Sweborg works by the Allied squadrons, have enabled a great many people to abuse the old system of defences and to thrust into prominence a world of undefined inventions and "improvements" in the art of fortification. The public is inclined to look with favor upon new theories. They are startling and novel. A failure of an old work is a signal for condemning all that has been done in the past, without considering the circumstances.

The *Edinburgh Review* gives an elaborate article to show that the system of modern fortifications is unworthy of confidence; and, without waiting for facts, our own press, on the strength of the reported success of the Allies at Sweborg, follows in its wake and pronounces our great works at New York, Newport and other places as unworthy of public confidence. It turns out that nothing was effected at Sweborg beyond the blowing up of some magazines, not properly constructed; the burning of some buildings and the destruction of a considerable amount of property; and that the forts and other works of defence, are in as good, or nearly as good, condition, at this very hour, as when the Allies began the bombardment. How happens it, then, it may be asked, that the gun boats effected even what they did? The answer is by no means difficult. The Russians, anticipating an attack from vessels of heavy draught, may have left some points unguarded, trusting to the shallowness of the water, and their infernal machines, for security. But the latter proved to be of little use, and the former was no obstacle to the gun boats, which undoubtedly were able to take position where they were safe from the guns of the forts, but still could play upon the town. If the works of defence had been destroyed, or even much damaged, a landing would have been made; but this the Allies did not even attempt to do, well knowing that without an army and a siege train, they would soon have been forced either to embark or surrender.

The writer in the *Edinburgh Review*, generally copied and adopted by our press, takes up many of the important operations of the war, gives his views of the facts, draws his own inferences, and then assures us with amusing boldness that new principles have been discovered in the science of engineering—insinuating at the same time that the delay of the Allies before Sebastopol is, to a certain extent, attributable to the ignorance of the French and English engineers, who apparently are blind to the new lights which Russian genius is developing. He lavishes great praise on Montalambert's system, but tells us how it crumbled before the English and French batteries at Bomarsund; and he complains of the "obstructiveness" of the administrative department, because they would not adopt Ferguson's theory of defence, which has never yet received the sanction of experience.

Montalambert's system when first published gave rise to much discussion among the French engineers, and was never fully acquiesced in by them—Carnot being the only person of eminence who believed in its soundness. It has since, to some extent, been adopted by the Germans; but the late experience at Bomarsund tells heavily against it, and justifies both the French and American engineers, who have generally followed other systems. It is not contended that art has exhausted itself and left no further room for improvement; but when it is considered that in this branch of science how thoroughly every principle must be tested before it can receive the sanction of profound thinkers, and that two centuries have been employed in perfecting the present plans, it is little less than absurd to pretend that a discovery has been made which rightfully supersedes the whole labors of the past.

Even admitting all the facts as stated respecting the siege of Sebastopol, is there no other way of explaining why the Russians have been able to make so noble a defence, than by jumping at the conclusion that they possess some concealed art of fortification? There certainly is, and we have only to regard attentively the circumstances attending that siege to find it.

In all ordinary cases the besiegers begin by reducing the besieged to their own resources; and therefore it seldom happens that the garrison is large enough to repair even the damages done, much less to undertake the construction of extensive field works. That any new principle of engineering has been developed before Sebastopol, there is yet no good reason to believe; and while too much praise cannot be given to the Russian engineers, their success is due not to their skill alone, but to the possession of vast resources that have ever before been placed at the command of other engineers. The value of earthen works has long been acknowledged, as well as the importance of their being made to play in defence; but the difficulty usually encountered is the want of hands to execute them, and men afterwards to man them. Owing to the absence of tenacity in the material of which they are constructed, they must have sloping embankments instead of perpendicular walls. They are thus accessible without scaling ladders, and although they may possess great advantages, it is on the presumption that they are well provided with men. They should be regarded more in the light of advantageous positions than as works of defence, as technical fortifications.

All fortifications are not alike, nor does it follow because Bomarsund makes a weak resistance, that there is no reliance to be placed on other stone works. Forts, no matter how well planned, or how well constructed, offer a mere passive resistance, and their virtues can only be made manifest in the hands of those who know how to use them; no correct inference, therefore, can be drawn from the fall of one work and the successful resistance of another, without a full knowledge of every attendant fact and circumstance. A San Juan

may fall into the hands of an enemy because of the explosion of a magazine, but, notwithstanding this accident, a vigorous garrison, instead of capitulating, would have driven the French off, and not yielded up to them a work which, for all purposes of defence, was still quite uninjured. It is certainly a strange idea, prevalent as it may be, that "stone walls are no matches for wooden ones." In the one case there is a massive wall varying from six to ten feet in thickness, and in the other the mere side of a vessel. The guns behind the first are in every case placed on a solid basis, and can be fired with great accuracy, whereas on shipboard they are subject to every motion of the water, and must frequently strike wide of their mark. Forts can mount heavier guns than ships. Whence, then, arises the great superiority of the latter? Is it imagination, or is it fact, that by transferring the same gun from its earthen bed to one that is afloat, its character is changed? If so, it must be brought about by magic, not by art, and military engineers will be under the deepest obligation to him who will bring forward an authentic account of a modern fortification, well defended, being demolished by the batteries of a ship.

Stone walls cannot resist cannon; but this is true only where the cannon are brought very near to them, and breaches, save in thin walls, are only made from just beyond the crest of the enter works.

Whatever changes the future may have in store for us, of one thing we may be certain: that the gun boat has not yet been made, nor the floating batteries invented, that is to crush any of the works erected for the protection of the principal cities of our seaboard. Their inhabitants, therefore, need not feel any uneasiness at the new theories advanced with so much boldness by an *Edinburgh Reviewer*, nor by what the English and French fleets can do against Russia's best forts.

A YEAR'S WAR OPERATIONS IN THE CRIMEA.—Over a year has elapsed since the Crimean Tartars were astonished by the appearance on their desolate coast of the French and English black sea fleets escorting to Eupatoria a convoy of one hundred vessels with an army of fifty-eight thousand men on board. A year will have elapsed to-morrow since that army met the enemy on the heights of Alma, and gained a brilliant victory. The following week or fortnight was expected to have witnessed the fall of Sebastopol; and so confident were the Allies that this was the inevitable destiny of the city that it was looked upon just as if it were already in their hands, and even the cautious Emperor of the French had no hesitation in immortalizing one of his brilliant reviews at Boulogne by the announcement that Sebastopol *est pris*. But how stands the case? This announcement of Louis Napoleon has become as famous as the motto of the great Roman, *Carthago est delenda*—(Carthage must be destroyed); and the probability is, from what we have already seen, that with respect to Sebastopol the tense is to be always future.

It is impossible to form anything like an approximate estimate of the stupendous loss of human life which has attended the efforts of the Allies to reduce this now historic fortress, built and defended by a people denominated rude and barbarous. If we were to say that half a million of lives have been already sacrificed by fire, and sword, and pestilence, and shipwreck, and the horrors of a Crimean winter, it would certainly be below the real figure. And if a correct estimate of the loss of life already sustained is impossible, how much more so it is to fix any limit to the destruction of life which a reckless obstinacy on the part of the besiegers, and a much more rational obstinacy on the part of the besieged, will involve! A daring *coup de main* on the part of the Allies might have overpowered its proportionately small means of resistance when its battlements first came in sight. Now those means have been magnified perhaps tenfold; and even the fiery valor of the Frenchman and the intrepidity of the Briton pale and quail before the terrific dangers of an assault.

The fact seems to be conceded on all sides that the lapse of a year since the siege was undertaken has not appreciably improved the prospects of the besiegers, even although their numerical force is increased fourfold. Sebastopol, in all probability, stands, on the 19th of September, 1855, at the same virgin fortress as she stood on the same date in 1854. There is no doubt of its being better fortified and garrisoned now than it was then, and it would seem that its important works of defence are as scatheless as if they had never undergone the terrific bombardments to which they have been subjected. The events which time may have in store in connection with it, it is not for man to predict, but if we may judge the future by the past we may take it for granted that still another year's siege of Sebastopol will not materially alter the idea of its impregnability.

THE RESTORATION OF THE MISSOURI COMPROMISE REPEATED.—The anti-liquor fanatics and madmen who set up business in Maine, have surrendered in Maine. The fusion republican negro worshippers who started in Syracuse—the very centre of the abolitionists—a city devoted to all manner of crazy free soil ineptitudes—have utterly repudiated the republican Seward platform. At a convention of their order for the county of Onondaga, held last week at Syracuse, their chairman, on taking his seat, said that he was utterly opposed to the restoration of the Missouri compromise. He would not restore a law that was opposed by Seward, Chase, Hale and his whole party, five years ago. The convention concurred with him, and the subject was dropped. In four or five other counties the fusionists have done the same thing. What is the matter? With the Maine law repealed in Maine, and the republicans repudiated at Syracuse, it is not easy to see how the negroes are to be made any better than white people. There is certainly a screw loose somewhere. Has the Maine election affected the arrangements? What is the matter?

WOMEN'S RIGHTS.—According to Lloyd Garrison's *negro Liberator*, "a Woman's Rights Convention is to be held in Boston this day; and Lucy Stone Blackwell, Ernestine L. Rose, Paulina W. Davis, Antoinette L. Brown, Sarah M. Grimke, Lucretia Mott, and Harriet K. Hunt, are expected among the speakers. Also, Ralph Waldo Emerson, Theodore Parker, and Wendell Phillips. A large attendance is anticipated," and considerable fun. It is to be hoped they will propose some plan of relief for their sisters at the Great Salt Lake. One husband for forty women! Let them make a dead set at Brigham Young.

QUARANTINING BALTIMORE VESSELS.—We published yesterday a correspondence which has just taken place between Mayor Hincks of Baltimore and Mayor Wood of New York, on the subject of having vessels arriving from Baltimore at this port, subjected to quarantine. Mayor Hincks is justly indignant at this action of our Board of Health, at once palpably absurd and unjust, and threatens retaliation on vessels arriving there from New York, unless the order be revoked. Mayor Wood virtually acknowledges the justice of the complaint, but shows that the ordinance only applies in cases where yellow fever is actually found on board. But even with that qualification, he states that the precaution so timidly and foolishly adopted, as between Baltimore and New York, did not meet with his concurrence.

If the order be persevered in, it will, without acting by any means as a sentinel to keep out yellow fever, have a very injurious effect on the commerce between these two cities. If a case of common bilious fever, sure to be pretty prevalent at this season, be found on board a vessel arriving from Baltimore there is every chance of its being magnified into one of yellow fever; and the vessel would in consequence be subjected to the usual delay for purification at Quarantine. This detention of vessels at Staten Island for several weeks would be a serious loss to the owners and shippers; and if that loss be duplicated by the adoption of retaliatory measures on vessels arriving at Baltimore from this port, there is no estimating the amount of injury which would be thereby inflicted on our commerce. And all for what? To appease silly and groundless apprehensions. There is no pretence that Baltimore is now affected by the epidemic. There is no pretence that it does not enjoy even a better condition of public health than New York does. And even if this were not so—if Baltimore were being desolated by yellow fever—how little effect would these quarantine restrictions be while overland communication is unimpeded, and while half a dozen railroad trains, conveying nineteen-twentieths of the amount of traffic, daily connect one city with the other? Mayor Wood, like a sensible man, recognized the force of these truths, and therefore refused his assent and concurrence in the action of the Board of Health. The very fact of that non-concurrence in the silly measure on the part of our chief magistrate, does much to relieve the city from the odium which this order is calculated to inflict upon it. But more must still be done. The order must be revoked.

We do not here enter on the argument of the legality or illegality of this order, further than to say that the we understand that the Board of Health requested the opinion of the Counsel to the Corporation, and that that opinion was adverse to the power of the Board to establish such a rule in reference to Baltimore—an unfriendly city. They would have just as much right to extend its application to Boston at the present moment. Under all these circumstances, we hope that the Board of Health will see the propriety of at once rescinding the order complained of.

THE ST. NICHOLAS HOTEL AND THE FOURIERITE ORGAN.—The Fourierite philosophers of the New York *Tribune* seize the occasion of the late bloody affray at the St. Nicholas Hotel for a violent assault upon that establishment; and they express their wonder—"their special wonder"—how gentlemen of respectability and elevation of mind can permit their wives and daughters to dwell in such places." &c. Now, from the facts in the case, the affray of Saturday night last was one of those personal collisions for which the proprietors of the house are no more responsible than if it had taken place in San Francisco. Nor has the affair anything to do with the general or particular discipline of the house; for it is hardly necessary to say that the St. Nicholas is one of the best, most orderly, refined and elegant hotels in this city or in the world. Its guests will appreciate at its proper value the malignity of its assailants, in their attempt to identify it with "drunken brawls," and "the belching brutality of the rioting rowdy in every passage."

A maniac may get into a church and disturb the peace of the congregation, and a desperate man may assault another with deadly intent even in a court of justice. The occurrence, therefore, of the one thing or the other, at a public hotel, where thousands of citizens and strangers are daily brought into contact with each other, proves nothing against the order or discipline of the establishment. On the contrary, we dare say, that in proportion to the number of its guests and visitors, there is not a Maine law hotel in the United States that can boast of the uniform good order, quietude, and refined courtesies of social intercourse which characterize the inmates of the St. Nicholas Hotel.

The attack upon it by our *Tribune* philosophers may be set down, perhaps, to an exasperated state of wrath, resulting from the late overthrow of the fanatical nigger and liquor fanatics in Maine, and from the desperate straits to which that election has reduced the same coalition of this commonwealth, touching the abominable law which they have given us, and which the proprietors of every hotel, saloon, boarding house and private residence in this city treat as a nuisance and nuisance. But our liquor and Fourierite reformers should not permit their rage to carry them beyond the limits of sober discretion in their attacks upon their fellow-citizens, their characters, their business and their property. The Maine Liquor law can never be forced down the throats of this community by such disgraceful tricks of electioneering. Better fight the issue upon its merits, or give up this Liquor law as an impossible imposition in New York.

BLEEDING THE NAVY LIST.—We give elsewhere some interesting statistics relative to the report of the Naval Board. Our article includes a great mass of facts, and contains the first full and complete list of the retiring officers which has yet been published. The telegraph made some blunders in the report published in the *HERALD* of yesterday. The report of the Board has made a tremendous excitement among the naval officers and their hundred thousand friends, and public opinion seems to be divided upon the matter.

THE CENTRAL PARK—HURRY UP THE REPORT.—The Commissioners in the matter of the Central Park were to have reported to the Common Council during the current month. We are now in the last half of September; the sessions of the Common Council are limited to a very few more, and yet we hear nothing of the report. Gentlemen Commissioners, do your duty!

THEY CONFESS IT.—The devotion of the slaves of Norfolk and Portsmouth to their masters and mistresses, through all the severe trials of the late terrible pestilence in those cities, excites the admiration of our Seward organs. His central organ at Albany confesses it all, and argues that where there is such devotion among the slaves, they may be safely trusted with their liberty and equal rights. But, alas! there is Jamaica, and there is Haiti! Which would our Seward philanthropists have Virginia to be?—another Haiti, or a second Jamaica? And will Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe be good enough to inform the Duchess of Sutherland of the attachment of those slaves of Norfolk and Portsmouth to their masters and mistresses, as illustrated in hundreds of cases of this dreadful visitation of the yellow fever? Where the relations of protection and dependence are thus beautifully developed, there must be something divine in the institution of Southern slavery, after all. It passes all human philosophy.

HARD PUSHED FOR CAPITAL.—The Albany *Evening Journal* cites the imprisonment of the negro kidnapper, Passmore Williamson, in Philadelphia, as one of the issues of our November election. Will he do for "a good enough Morgan till after the election?" Perhaps.

## THE LATEST NEWS.

BY MAGNETIC AND PRINTING TELEGRAPHS.

Later from Mexico.

NEW ORLEANS, Sept. 17, 1855.  
The steamer Nautilus arrived here on Saturday, with Brownsville date to the 6th inst. Gen. Wall came passenger in her.  
Gen. Vidauri was at Monterey. He charges all the evils that have afflicted Mexico on the army, and declares that there is no army except a revolutionary one.  
Generals Parodi and Galtan had been taken prisoners at San Luis Potosi.  
A party of the government troops, numbering one hundred and forty, were attacked by the federalists near Reynosa, and routed with a loss of 20 killed, 30 wounded and 40 prisoners.  
General Castro, with 1,800 troops, was at Matamoros and would probably pronounce in favor of the federalists.

Violent Gales at Milwaukee and Chicago.

LOSS OF THE STEAMER SEBASTOPOL, ETC.  
CHICAGO, Sept. 18, 1855.  
During a violent gale which commenced here this afternoon, the brig Tascara, from the lower lakes, loaded with coal, dragged her anchor, and had her mast and rigging all carried away. The crew were saved by life-boats. The vessel will probably go to pieces before long. The gale is increasing in fury. Several other vessels are in sight.

We learn from Milwaukee that during a storm this morning, the steamer Sebastopol, at 8 A. M. went ashore two miles south of the mouth of the Milwaukee river.—The latest accounts say she was on the bar with the waves breaking over her. Men, women, and children were seen on board. She would probably go to pieces, unless the storm abated. Two men attempted to swim to the shore from the vessel, but one failed and was drowned; the other reports that there is a large number of passengers on board.

A later account from Milwaukee states that there is no chance of saving the steamer Sebastopol, and that she had already commenced going to pieces.

The Yellow Fever in Virginia.

BALTIMORE, Sept. 18, 1855.  
At Norfolk, during the 48 hours ending at noon on Monday, there were 48 deaths, and at Portsmouth during the same time, the number of deaths was only 17. There were but few new cases in either of the cities, and in some parts of Portsmouth the disease had altogether disappeared.

The Rev. Mr. Chisholm, of the Episcopal, and Mr. Bagwell, of the Baptist church, at Norfolk, were among the dead, also, Mrs. Jane Devery, a wealthy lady of that city. Drs. Besser and Briggs, of Philadelphia, were down with the fever.

RELIEF FROM CINCINNATI.

CINCINNATI, Sept. 18, 1855.  
Three thousand dollars have been collected here thus far, for the relief of the sufferers at Norfolk and Portsmouth.

The Fever at New Orleans.

NEW ORLEANS, Sept. 17, 1855.  
The deaths in this city during the past week were 282, of which 150 were from yellow fever.

From Washington.

WASHINGTON, Sept. 18, 1855.  
Senator Pratt, of Maryland, arrived this evening, and is stopping at Willard's Hotel. Senator Bayard, of Delaware, arrived this evening; also Hon. J. C. Miller, of Missouri.

Grand Lodges of the Odd Fellows of the United States.

BALTIMORE, Sept. 18, 1855.  
In the Grand Lodge of Odd Fellows, this morning, the Legislative Committee reported that though merging emancipation degrees into subordinate lodges is desirable, the time has not yet arrived for specific action on the subject.

Weather at Boston.

BOSTON, Sept. 18, 1855.  
At noon to-day the thermometer indicated 85 degrees in the shade. A cool easterly wind sprang up in the afternoon and a beautiful rain storm commenced, which continued until noon. This evening there were indications of more rain.